

with Mexico's market bigger than Japan's; that the North American economy is forecast to grow by 3.5 percent this year, higher than the other industrialized countries of the world; or that all those predictions of a "giant sucking sound" of jobs leaving the United States have not come true.

Despite all the doom and gloom fears that trade expansion will destroy jobs, the obvious fact is that trade has helped to create millions of new, higher-paying jobs, driving the U.S. unemployment rate to the lowest level in nearly a quarter of a century.

Last week's Labor Department unemployment report showed the jobless rate falling to 4.7 percent, flattened by the creation of an astonishing 284,000 jobs in October alone. Since 1993 the U.S. economy has created more than 13.5 million new jobs. "Clearly, NAFTA has not hurt the U.S. economy," trade analyst Rebecca Reynolds Bannister writes in a study for the Progressive Policy Institute.

And contrary to the Gephardt-Bonior-Sanders disinformation campaign that the United States is losing higher-paying manufacturing jobs, the most robust job gains last month were in manufacturing. Half the 54,000 jobs in this sector alone were in machinery, transportation and construction. Big U.S. companies like Boeing have hired 32,000 workers in the last 18 months and will add another 11,000 jobs to its factory lines. Other companies like Caterpillar were expanding their payrolls to keep up with mounting exports to Latin America.

Rather than worry about losing jobs, the biggest complaint among U.S. business leaders in the country today is the lack of labor, qualified or otherwise.

But too little or none of this is getting reported to the American people. One reason is an abysmal level of ignorance in much of the news media and in Congress about trade and the global economy. An otherwise intelligent editor of a major newspaper recently told me that "America doesn't make much of anything anymore."

This common perception, wholly untrue, reflects what many Americans think of the U.S. economy. Combined with the belief that imports destroy jobs and a misunderstanding about the global economy's benefits, this is what is now driving so much of the public mistrust about NAFTA and other trade deals.

The truth is we will begin losing jobs if we don't negotiate lower trade barriers abroad because U.S. companies will move plants to these countries to avoid paying import tariffs.

But the myth of U.S. deindustrialization goes on despite all the evidence against it. Our gross domestic product, the measure of all the goods and services we produce, stands at nearly \$8 trillion, bigger than any nation on Earth. If you want to see what America makes, look at the New York Stock Exchange listings or the NASDAQ in your local newspaper. Millions of privately owned businesses add to the nation's growth rate, which was expanding at a 3.5 percent annualized rate in the third quarter—faster than any other industrialized nation.

We are the biggest producer of food on the planet. We are the biggest producer of farm and industrial machinery, of airplanes, of computers and of software. At our present rate of growth, it is quite possible that our GDP will reach \$10 trillion by the beginning of the next decade.

Americans have produced this level of GDP. But because we produce more products and services than we can possibly buy ourselves, we sell the rest in global markets. And those sales have been a major factor in our robust job-creation rate that is higher than any industrialized nation on Earth.

Mr. Clinton complained this week that "this is no-brainer." Trade has not destroyed jobs, it has created them. U.S. leadership in the global economy is one of the great success stories of the 20th century. Sadly, the U.S. business community had done a very poor job of promoting this story to its workers, to Congress and to the media.

Mr. Clinton deserves a lot of the blame for not beginning early enough to get the votes needed to pass fast-track. But I think American business is also much to blame for this week's setback. Until corporate America gets into the trenches and begins doing a better job of combating the demagogues and educating the country about the benefits of global trade, we're going to have even more trouble getting trade bills through Congress in the future.

#### HONORING MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP'S VIRGINIA WHITE FOR 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who exemplifies public service in every sense of the word—Virginia White.

After serving for 25 years as clerk of Meridian Township, Virginia has decided to step down from office, leaving a legacy of trust, responsibility, and dedication.

As clerk, her responsibilities for Meridian Township included director of elections, keeper of records, and voting member on the township's policy board. But Virginia was much more. Virginia gained admiration by always doing what was best for her community—she was, and will always be, an outstanding public servant.

During her 25 years in office, it wasn't just what Virginia did, but how she did it. Each responsibility she held was completed with conviction, pride, and the deepest sense of integrity.

One of her largest contributions has been her work in bringing more people into the political process. As president of the Michigan Association of Clerks, Virginia worked hard to modernize elections for the public and wrote a book on how to improve voting in the State of Michigan. In November 1995, Virginia was appointed to the Secretary of State's Election Advisory Committee, where she made a series of recommendations to curb duplicate voting and make voting rules more clear for voters.

I have enjoyed working with Virginia on many occasions during the past 20 years. I particularly appreciated our joint efforts to organize a celebration for the Meridian Township Sesquicentennial.

Virginia will always be a leader, not only in Meridian Township, but throughout Michigan. I thank her for her service and I wish her the very best in the future.

#### THE THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA SUPPORT SITE

#### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1997, I introduced H.R. 2931, legislation to redesignate the naval facility located in Gricignano d'Aversa, Italy, currently known as the Naples Support Site as the "Thomas M. Foglietta Support Site." I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will pay tribute to a fine Member, who was recently sworn in as Ambassador to Italy.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, Ambassador FOGLIETTA has a long history of service to his hometown, his State, and his country. He practiced law for 27 years. First elected to the Philadelphia City Council in 1955, he was the youngest council member of a major U.S. city. He held this position until 1975. From 1976 to 1977 Ambassador FOGLIETTA was the representative of the U.S. Secretary of Labor in Pennsylvania under President Gerald Ford. In 1980 he was first elected to represent Pennsylvania's First Congressional District and has since won the overwhelming loyalty of his constituents.

As a Member of Congress, Ambassador FOGLIETTA sought to protect the industrial base of his constituents. He fought tenaciously to keep open the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, a facility that once formed the backbone of industry in the area. Unfortunately, as the facility was deemed to have become obsolete, an independent commission set up by Congress recommended that the base be closed. However, Ambassador FOGLIETTA would not let the matter rest. In an effort to make the best of the situation, TOM fought to secure Federal funding for defense conversion. He wanted to ensure that his hometown would be able to shift its industrial base, and to preserve its economic vitality.

Now, our friend and colleague is taking his career in another direction. Last month, he was confirmed by the Senate as the next United States Ambassador to Italy. However, foreign affairs is not a new interest for Ambassador FOGLIETTA. During the 1980's Ambassador FOGLIETTA was one of the leading advocates of democratic reforms in South Korea. He has also participated in efforts to restore the democratically elected regime of Haiti. In Congress his committee assignments involved work related to international relations and national security. He was appointed to the Appropriations Committee in 1993 and has served on its Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. As a member of this subcommittee he has served as a leading advocate for U.S. assistance to promote free markets and democratic reforms in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

More than 10 years ago Ambassador FOGLIETTA visited the Navy's facilities around Naples and was disturbed by the conditions he saw there. Following this visit he worked with the Navy and Congress to build new facilities for U.S. forces. H.R. 2931 is a fitting tribute to our former colleague, in light of his efforts on behalf of our troops and his new position as U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

I would like to wish the best as he assumes his new responsibilities. I hope my colleagues